

**HOPE VALLEY/WYOMING FIRE DISTRICT
996 MAIN STREET
HOPE VALLEY, RI 02832**

**MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
AUGUST 14, 2014
7:00 P.M.**

Those present: Board Members: Chairman, David Holt, Vice-Chairman, Pasquale DeBernardo, Georgia Ure, Elwood Johnson, Paul Schaarschmidt; Deputy Chief, David Caswell; Treasurer, Deborah Nicotra; Tax Collector, Susan Bok; District Clerk, Julie Kelley

Those not present: Chief, Frederick Stanley; Auditor, Pete Stefanski

The meeting commenced and was called to order by Chairman, David Holt at 7:00 p.m. with a salute to the flag and a moment of silence.

MINUTES

The minutes of the July 10th Monthly Board Meeting were presented. Mr. DeBernardo motioned to accept the minutes as presented and Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. With no further discussion, all in favor, all aye, motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Mr. Holt-yes; Mr. DeBernardo-yes; Ms. Ure-yes; Mr. Johnson-yes, Mr. Schaarschmidt-yes

The minutes of the 32nd Annual District Meeting held on July 16th were presented for review. The minutes will be presented and voted on at the next annual meeting to be held on July 15th, 2015.

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

The Tax Collector's report was presented for July 2014. A total of \$80,918.05 has been collected to date. Chairman Holt noted that due to the recently passed legislation the Tax Collector's role would now have additional responsibilities. In the fire district, the tax roll has to be certified by the tax collector no later than thirty (30) business days prior to its annual meeting. The district rejected this since we cannot provide a certified tax role until we get it from the towns which will not be completed prior to our Annual meeting.

Mr. Johnson motioned to accept the Tax Collector's Report as presented and Ms. Ure seconded the motion. With no further discussion, all in favor, all aye, motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Mr. Holt-yes; Mr. DeBernardo-yes; Ms. Ure-yes; Mr. Johnson-yes, Mr. Schaarschmidt-yes

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's report for June 2014 was presented. Chairman Holt discussed the new legislation and how some Fire Stations were set up as taxing authorities. As a taxing authority they have recourse, but also out of their budget, they pay for their tennis courts, lifeguards, parking lot attendants and anything else that may be required. So it is more like a homeowners association with a fire bill. In this way, they successfully raise their money without any problems. They also want us to report to the Town Councils. We rejected this proposal. We are part of the open meeting laws of which we comply with any agency responsible, in a public manner as a taxing agency. We are subject to the Open Records Act and Open Meetings Act, if someone wants to see something as part of the Open records act, they may request it. This legislation is something that has to be looked at in the future and changed. We have asked them not to take any position as a Fire District as a group. We are going to reject and raise these issues that legislation has put forth. Our South County Legislators have been contacted and they know our concerns. At this time, there is no penalty if we don't send it in and we are unaware of any enforcement authority at this time.

The report that they are requiring from us looks like our Actual vs. Budget that we do every month. We can reprint this same report quarterly and attach it to their cover sheet. Ms. Nicotra inquired if a meeting with Ms. Kimberly Prasinos was going to be scheduled. It was discussed that this would not be the case as most members would not be able to attend a daytime meeting as requested due to other work commitments. The board discussed the Tax Compliance Act and their listing that they requested. Ms. Nicotra will provide a listing that she already submits to the Department of Labor and Training through June 30th. Ms. Nicotra also stated that the annual number is going to change as a few more bills are still coming in. Then the reconciliation has to be done.

Mr. Johnson motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report for July as presented and Mr. DeBernardo seconded the motion. Discussion: It was noted that Acct. # 6230 Parks & Grounds for Depot Square Park was not reflected on the report. It was discussed that the Depot Square Park account was to be closed and moved to budget. Ms. Nicotra will make this correction. With no further discussion, all in favor, all aye, motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Mr. Holt-yes; Mr. DeBernardo-yes; Ms. Ure-yes; Mr. Johnson-yes, Mr. Schaarschmidt-yes

CHIEF'S REPORT

The Chief's report was presented for July 2014. The board discussed the following points of interest:

The board discussed that Deputy David Caswell was sitting in for the Chief, while he and Captain David Dumsar were away attending the FRI 2014 conference in Dallas, TX. Pat Hawkins and Dave Richardson will be covering for Captain Dumsar while he is away.

The board members as well as Chief Stanley as stated in his report, welcomed Mr. Paul Schaarschmidt as one of our newest elected board members.

Two (2) quotes have been received for the refurbishing of the 2004 Ford van, one from Hope Valley Auto Body in the amount of \$8,442.82 and the other from Grimes Auto Body in the amount of \$8,121.25. Mr. DeBernardo commented that Grimes Auto Body does a great job but Hope Valley Auto Body pays taxes to the district. Deputy David Caswell indicated that Grimes Auto Body has also done a lot of work on the Diamond T and that the value may possibly be even less than their quote. Mr. Johnson motioned to approve the quote from Grimes Auto Body in the amount of \$8,121.25 for the refurbishing of the 2004 Ford van and Mr. Schaarschmidt seconded the motion. With no further discussion, all in favor, all aye, motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Mr. Holt-yes; Mr. DeBernardo-yes; Ms. Ure-yes; Mr. Johnson-yes, Mr. Schaarschmidt-yes

Mr. DeBernardo inquired as to why the Old Stone Mill would require our services. The board discussed the Old Stone Mill and the problems with the alarms in the past due to propane smells and lockouts. The management company has been advised that the Fire district will no longer respond to lockout situations.

We as a district have not heard from Mark Shelley regarding our Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating. We do not anticipate any problems.

Verizon is making progress. The authorization form has been signed for Verizon so they have the authorization to go to the town and state for permits. They are hoping to be on the agenda with the zoning board to proceed with the permits.

Kimberly Prasinos, Productivity Project Director of the Department of Revenue is not available to meet outside of working hours. Chairman Holt proposed that we submit quarterly reports using the format that our Treasurer, Deborah Nictora already produces and will print their front page for signatures and dating and what other requirements they have for certification. Mr. Johnson motioned to accept the submittal to the Department of Revenue quarterly reports using the current format that our Treasurer produces, Ms. Ure and Mr. Schaarschmidt seconded the motion. With no further discussion, all in favor, all aye, motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Mr. Holt-yes; Mr. DeBernardo-yes; Ms. Ure-yes; Mr. Johnson-yes, Mr. Schaarschmidt-yes

Chairman Holt proposed that the district hire their normal auditor this year to conduct our audit and submit that as requested. We will also attach any forms for signatures to certify the audit. Ms. Ure motioned to accept this process and attach forms for signatures to certify the audit. Mr. Schaarschmidt seconded the motion. Discussion: The district is subject to the Open Records Act and Open Meetings Act and has complied with both and continues to do so and anyone seeking that information can find it through that avenue. We as one of the better districts, object strongly. With no further discussion, all in favor, all aye, motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Mr. Holt-yes; Mr. DeBernardo-yes; Ms. Ure-yes; Mr. Johnson-yes, Mr. Schaarschmidt-yes

The RIAFC annual mini vendors show is to be held on September 25th at the Richmond County Club. The meeting is at 10:00 am and a free buffet lunch at 12 Noon.

Chief Stanley has requested a closed session to discuss his future plans for retirement as a paid Fire Chief. During the Board meeting to be held on October 9th, we will hold a closed session where the board will go into Executive session after the Public Forum to discuss any personal matters. The District Clerk will post the notice of the October 9th monthly board meeting amending the agenda line up with Public Forum coming before the Executive Session. A letter will also be sent to Chief Stanley offering the option to have an open or closed session.

The Richmond-Carolina Fire District has paid their 2nd installment for dispatching equipment. We have received an amount of \$9,125.00 as the second installment or a total of \$18,250.00 for their share of this expense.

We also received their share of the 539-2211 Emergency phone line and the Breathing Air Compressor in the amount of \$1,207.64 deposited into Acct. # 1800 Joint Phone bills.

Verizon is doing their best not to make any property changes especially in the park area.

Mr. DeBernardo motioned to accept the Chief's Report for July 2014 and Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. With no further discussion from the Chief's report, all in favor, all aye, motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Mr. Holt-yes; Mr. DeBernardo-yes; Ms. Ure-yes; Mr. Johnson-yes, Mr. Schaarschmidt-yes

CORRESPONDENCE

Incoming:

1. Letter addressed to Fire District Officials, from Ms. Rosemary Booth Gallogly, Director of Revenue, Department of Revenue, regarding recent General Assembly Legislation that has been passed.
2. State of Rhode Island 2014 – H 7944 Substitute A as Amended, an Act relating to Towns and Cities – Budget Commissions.
3. Email addressed to Mr. Frederick A. Stanley, Chief, Hope Valley/Wyoming Fire District, from Mr. David Sullivan, Rhode Island Tax Administrator, regarding State Employee Compliance Act Attachments.docx.
4. Special Report, from Mr. Frederick A. Stanley, Chief, Hope Valley/Wyoming Fire District, regarding New Fire District Legislation 2015.
5. Assessors Statement of Assessed Valuations and Tax Levy for the town of Hopkinton and Richmond, Tax Roll Year 2014.
6. RI Southern Firemen's League 2013 Statistics from Mr. Frederick A. Stanley, Chief, Hope Valley/Wyoming Fire District.
7. Thank you note from Mr. Ronald Richard expressing his appreciation for the buffet dinner honoring his service on the original committee to form the Fire district and his tenure as a Board member.
8. Email addressed to Mr. Frederick A. Stanley, Chief, Hope Valley/Wyoming Fire District, from Ms. Sarah McGuinness, Project Manager, VitalSite Services, Inc., regarding Verizon Wireless Update.
9. The Westerly Sun article, dated, August 2, 2014, regarding Chief Stanley and his recent fall at the Alton Mill.

Outgoing:

1. Letter addressed to RI Department of Municipal Finance, from Mr. Frederick A. Stanley, Chief, Hope Valley/Wyoming Fire District, regarding Planned meetings on July 22, 2014.
2. Letter addressed to Department of Revenue, Ms. Kimberly Prasinos, Division of Municipal Finance, from Mr. Frederick A. Stanley, Chief, Hope Valley/Wyoming Fire District, regarding Certification of tax rolls.

PUBLIC FORUM

A copy of Mr. Richard's thank you note is enclosed thanking the district for his dinner and expressing his appreciation to everyone for their support while he was on the board.

ADJOURN

A motion was made to adjourn at 7:59 p.m. by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Mr. DeBernardo and Ms. Ure. With no further discussion, all in favor, all aye, motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Mr. Holt-yes; Mr. DeBernardo-yes; Ms. Ure-yes; Mr. Johnson-yes, Mr. Schaarschmidt-yes

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Kelley
District Clerk